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NJMC Provides GIS Technology To South Hackensack

SOUTH HACKENSACK, N.J. – Municipal officials and emergency responders in South Hackensack received a helpful, technological boost today as the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission presented a powerful Geographic Information System tool to the township, giving emergency workers and officials instant access to digital maps and regional geographic data.

“This technology is state-of-the-art and puts life-saving information at the fingertips of police, fire and rescue workers in emergency situations,” said NJMC Chairwoman Susan Bass Levin, also the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Commissioner. “This is another example of the Meadowlands Commission’s commitment to providing outstanding service to our municipalities, whether it is through grants, technical assistance or access to equipment and information.”

A presentation was held tonight in South Hackensack Township Hall. Presenting the equipment from the Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute (MERI), the scientific arm of the NJMC, were MERI Director Dr. Francisco Artigas, GIS Manager Dom Elefante, Eric Yadlovski, GIS Specialist, and other MERI staff members. A tablet PC laptop computer with access to GIS information, which emergency officials can use from patrol cars, will be provided to the township in the near future.

The Meadowlands Commission’s GIS program is operated and continuously updated by MERI staff. The system creates maps, databases and other information useful to municipal workers. Information for GIS has been compiled from original paper maps, satellite images and other geographical documents available at the local, state and county level, such as Census data. It allows officials to access vital information such as the location of fire hydrants and hazardous materials possibly stored in a facility in accordance with New Jersey Right To Know laws.

The NJMC has allocated \$25,000 for each Meadowlands Municipality to receive the necessary training and hardware to be compatible with GIS. Another \$25,000 was allocated from the NJMC’s Municipal Assistance Program to purchase one tablet PC for each municipality.

“GIS technology allows us to incorporate efficient government tools into our Meadowlands municipalities,” said NJMC Executive Director Robert Ceberio. “It is vital to have all of our towns included in our regional GIS system. Now South Hackensack can tap into our high-speed mapping database and use this information for safety and other important municipal issues.”

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